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# FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



November 16, 2004

## FLORIDA

**GENERAL:** Drier conditions over most of the Peninsula and Panhandle localities allowed field work to progress rapidly during early October; however, some fields were still saturated with water from Hurricane Jeanne. Some hay quality decreased because of the excessive rainfall while some producers continued to bale as the fields dried out. A week later the western half of the Panhandle as well as parts of central and southern Peninsula received over four inches of precipitation from Tropical Storm Matthew. Favorable weather conditions in Jefferson County allowed peanut digging to advance rapidly, while some cotton was difficult to pick because the stalks were lodged. Growers in Suwannee County were able to get back in the fields and harvest peanuts, even though some peanuts were lost due to over maturity. Overall, peanuts were progressing at a normal pace.

Scattered showers around mid-month allowed soil moisture levels to increase to mostly adequate to surplus while some areas reported short supplies. Peanut quality was down due to the effects of the storms. Cotton picking was active in Washington County with some growers reporting loss from Hurricane Ivan. In Taylor County, hay making was as active as weather permitted by the end of the month.

Peanut digging was complete by early November in most Panhandle and northern Peninsula localities. Sugarcane harvesting was getting underway in the Everglades region. Santa Rosa cotton growers had finished picking about half of the crop, whereas, in Jefferson County cotton was lying down and matted from storms which made picking difficult. Cool mornings and hot afternoons complicated hay baling in northern Peninsula localities.

**PEANUTS:** Production is expected to total 338,000 million pounds, versus 345,000 pounds in 2003. Harvested acreage is projected at 130,000 acres, down 15,000 acres or 13 percent from the previous year. The current yield is 2,600 pounds per acre compared to 2,300 pounds per acre in October. Last year, yield averaged 3,000 pounds per acre.

**SUGARCANE:** Acreage expected for harvest is down 18,000 acres from last year to 420,000 acres this year. Yield is expected to average about 36 tons per acre compared to last year's 39.3 tons per acre. Estimated production is set at 15,120,000 tons, down 12 percent from last year.

## UNITED STATES

**PEANUTS:** Production is forecast at 4.20 billion pounds, up 2 percent from last month and up 1 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.39 million acres, unchanged from October but up 6 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3,027 pounds per acre, up 55 pounds from October but down 132 pounds from 2003. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.83 billion pounds, up 2 percent from October and up 2 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest, at 968,000 acres, is unchanged from October but up 13 percent from 2003. Yields in the 4-State region are expected to average 2,920 pounds per acre, 68 pounds above October but 318 pounds below last year. Yield prospects rebounded from last month after producers were able to fully evaluate the effects of heavy rainfall received from September hurricanes.

**SUGARCANE:** Production of sugarcane for sugar and seed in 2004 is forecast at 30.4 million tons, fractionally above the October forecast but 10 percent below 2003. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 961,400 acres for sugar and seed during the 2004 crop year, virtually the same as October and 3 percent less than last year's final harvested area. Yield is forecast at 31.6 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above the previous forecast but 2.4 tons below the 2003 yield. Louisiana's crop was 32 percent harvested on October 31, four percentage points behind the 5-year average for that date. Texas' forecasted yield increased from 36.0 to 37.0 tons per acre, reflecting the ideal harvest conditions that Texas growers have enjoyed.

**COTTON:** All cotton production is forecast at 22.5 million 480-pound bales, up 5 percent from October and up 23 percent from last year's production. Yield is expected to average a record high 818 pounds per harvested acre, up 36 pounds from last month.

If realized, the yield will be 88 pounds above the previous record high yield established in 2003. Record high yields are expected in Arkansas, California, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Harvested area, at 13.2 million acres, is unchanged from October but 10 percent above 2003.

**CORN:** Production is forecast at 11.7 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month and 16 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is expected to average 160.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from October and 18.0 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous records for both were set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Across the U.S., yields are forecast at record high levels in 19 of the 33 published corn States. With the exception of Wisconsin, yields in the Corn Belt States are forecast at record highs as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season.

**SOYBEANS:** Production is forecast at 3.15 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October and 28 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.6 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from October and 8.7 bushels above last year. Producers in the Corn Belt, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Carolinas are realizing higher yields than expected last month, while yield prospects decreased as harvest progressed in North Dakota and Minnesota. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 74.0 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 2 percent from 2003.

CROP PRODUCTION: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida and United States as of November 1, 2004 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2003	For harvest 2004	2003	Indicated 2004		2003	Indicated 2004
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton <sup>1/ 2/</sup>	--	--	--	--	<sup>3/</sup>	--	--
Peanuts	115	130	3,000	2,600	Lbs.	345,000	338,000
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>4/</sup>	5.8	5.5	240	285	Cwt	1,392	1,568
Spring <sup>4/</sup>	28.6	22.5	280	249	Cwt	8,008	5,605
Sugarcane <sup>4/</sup>	438	420	39.3	36.0	Ton	17,231	15,120
Tobacco, Type 14 <sup>4/</sup>	4.4	4.0	2,500	2,500	Lbs.	11,000	10,000
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	Bu.	10,113,887	11,740,920
Cotton, all <sup>2/</sup>	12,003.4	13,223.0	730	818	<sup>3/</sup>	18,255.2	22,545.0
Other States <sup>5/</sup>	172	174	576	607	<sup>3/</sup>	206.5	220.0
Hay, Alfalfa <sup>4/</sup>	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	Ton	76,307	77,371
Hay, All Other <sup>4/</sup>	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	Ton	80,816	88,549
Peanuts for nuts	1,312	1,388	3,159	3,027	Lbs.	4,144,150	4,201,350
POTATOES:							
Winter <sup>4/</sup>	14.3	18.5	282	260	Cwt	4,027	4,818
Spring <sup>4/</sup>	84.7	71.7	288	266	Cwt	24,433	19,077
Summer <sup>4/</sup>	58.7	55.1	320	336	Cwt	18,766	18,487
Fall	1,090.9	1,024.5	376	398	Cwt	410,588	407,786
Rice	2,997	3,334	6.645	6,828	<sup>6/</sup>	199,157	227,650
Sorghum for grain	7,798	6,559	52.7	71.9	Bu.	411,237	471,572
Soybeans for beans	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	Bu.	2,453,665	3,150,441
Sugarbeets	1,347.9	1,326.0	22.7	22.4	Ton	30,583	29,765
Sugarcane for sugar and seed	994.4	961.4	34.0	31.6	Ton	33,857	30,350
Tobacco, All <sup>4/</sup>	411.2	409.6	1,952	2,156	Lbs.	802,654	883,168
Tobacco, Types 11 - 14 <sup>4/</sup>	233.4	229.4	1,957	2,237	Lbs.	456,690	513,230
Tobacco, Type 14 <sup>4/</sup>	31.4	28.0	2,242	2,029	Lbs.	70,400	56,800
Wheat, all	53,063	49,999	44.2	43.2	Bu.	2,344,760	2,158,245
Winter	36,753	34,462	46.7	43.5	Bu.	1,716,721	1,499,434
Durum	2,869	2,363	33.7	38.0	Bu.	96,637	89,893
Other spring	13,441	13,174	39.5	43.2	Bu.	531,402	568,918

<sup>1/</sup> Florida cotton included in U.S."Other States".

<sup>2/</sup> Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.

<sup>3/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.

<sup>4/</sup> Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>5/</sup> Other States include FL and KS. Individual State level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2004 Summary".

<sup>6/</sup> Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.